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June 15, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Southwest Passage Initiative for Regional and Interstate Transportation (SPIRIT) is a coalition of local governments, civic groups, and businesses who have banded together to promote the improvement of US Highway 54 from Wichita, Kansas to El Paso, Texas.

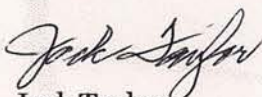
The communities along US Highway 54 are primarily rural, and just as the expansion of US 54 will bring commerce and help them grow, so will the expansion of high-speed wireless broadband technology. That is why I urge you to approve the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile, because it will result in the expansion of high-speed wireless broadband to over 97% of the country and will especially impact rural areas like those along US 54.

Unfortunately, just as areas alongside portions of US 54 that are only two lanes wide see slower traffic and more congestion - and consequently less commerce - than those communities with four lanes, communities in rural America that don't have access to high-speed broadband are falling behind those communities that do as a result of slower connections. But the expansion of high-speed wireless broadband access that will result from this merger is akin to the expansion of US 54 to four lanes: communities will see more free-flowing information and commerce that will help them compete with other areas of the country.

SPIRIT's goal is much the same as communications companies like AT&T and T-Mobile, as investments they make will bring advanced services to businesses that need to compete nationally and internationally. In Kansas that investment will help the economy, creating jobs and adding much needed revenue to the state and local tax base.

Because of its resulting expansion of high-speed wireless broadband service to over 97 percent of America and because of the many benefits it will bring to rural communities, I urge you to approve the AT&T/T-Mobile merger.

Sincerely,


Jack Taylor
Executive Director